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Fourth session
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Working Group I
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Compilation of proposals by Governments

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document contains the proposals by Governments for inclusion in Agenda 21 under the protection and management of land resources, received by the Secretariat since the conclusion of the third session. Each proposal is indicated below under the programme areas suggested in documents A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.2 and A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/CRP.12/Rev.1 at the third session.

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* See document A/CONF.151/PC/96.

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II.A. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

Proposal by the delegation of Venezuela

World programme for the planning and management of protected natural areas

Basis for action

2. In the last 20 years the protected areas of the world have expanded significantly. More than 6,500 protected areas have been declared, and they fall into a variety of technical and legal categories and classifications. Most of the protected natural areas, especially in the developing countries, have simply been declared officially, and there are no actual plans for the management and supervision of the lands they comprise. If the stated purposes in declaring them are to be realized, the protected areas must be brought together under a national and international system that permits consistency in the definitions, categories, content and scope of their management plans. A system of this type will facilitate international cooperation to improve the planning, management and supervision of protected ecosystems (usually fragile and vulnerable), making it possible to conserve the natural and often cultural heritage of the planet.

Objectives

3. To formulate and implement a world programme to improve the process of planning and managing protected natural areas (national parks and other protected areas such as forest preserves, animal refuges, watershed protection areas, natural monuments, etc.), which would include:

(a) Developing a protected areas system based on well-defined and internationally consistent categories;

(b) Establishing universally accepted management norms and procedures that can in turn be applied to the specificity of each region and country;

(c) Promoting the integration of national systems of protected natural areas into each country's plans for the development and management of its land;

(d) Furthering international assistance and cooperation for this purpose.

Activities

(a) Creating a global system of protected natural areas under the guidance of a United Nations agency, with the participation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), now the World Conservation Union;

(b) Establishing a consistent scheme of definitions, classifications, norms and procedures for the planning, management and supervision of protected natural areas;

(c) Designing and setting up an information system on protected natural areas to facilitate national planning and the international monitoring of such areas;

(d) Establishing a scheme of technical assistance and international cooperation for the promotion, design and establishment of national systems of protected natural areas;

(e) Promoting the exchange of information and of legal instruments that have been developed in each country, to enable protected natural areas to be more effectively managed.

III.B. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Proposal by the delegation of Venezuela

Environmental planning and management programme for Latin America and the Caribbean

Basis for action

4. Land management is one of the prime strategies for achieving sustainable development. This is particularly true in the developing countries, where it is still feasible to achieve a geographical distribution of the population and its economic and social activities in a way that respects the integrity and potential of the natural resources, this being the practical way to incorporate the environmental dimension into planning.

5. Even though the Latin American and Caribbean region is facing serious environmental problems stemming mainly from its condition of underdevelopment, it does possess the largest expanses on the planet of valuable natural resources in a practically pristine or virtually untouched state.

6. There are various prerequisites in the environmental planning and management process. One of these is to have a basic set of principles resting on the fact that economic development and social and cultural evolution are at a similar stage; which is more or less the case in this region.

Objectives

7. To promote ongoing environmental planning and management of the land in each country of the Latin American and Caribbean region, bearing in mind their particularities, and as a matter of course making use of the experiences of the countries in the region that have management programmes in progress, like Venezuela and its Venezuelan Environmental Systems Project.

Activities

(a) Establishing a Latin American and Caribbean centre for environmental planning and management, for the purpose of considering and designing regional policies, helping to set up national land management programmes, and training human resources in the field;

(b) Promoting the formulation of land management plans in the countries of the region, which would include the development of the necessary legal instruments governing the environment and development (national environmental systems);

(c) Designing environmental information systems with a view to environmental planning and management and land management.

IV.C. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Proposal by the delegation of Venezuela

Development of technologies for ecologically sound tropical agriculture

Basis for action

8. Whenever a specific scientific and technological approach has been introduced, it has spelled increased agricultural activity. However, this has happened at the expense of a serious ecological deterioration that has limited the possibility of sustainable development. What is needed is a redefinition of the sphere of scientific activity and technological development within a sustainable ecological framework in the tropical area. The development of ecologically sound agricultural technologies, incorporating the positive approaches of the so-called appropriate technologies together with the good points of conventional and advanced technologies, is what will permit productivity to increase as needed with a minimal impact on the environment.

Objectives

9. To develop and implement programmes for the development and assessment of ecologically sound agricultural technologies for the tropical areas of the world, promoting sustainable and economically viable agricultural production in the developing countries in the tropical region.

Activities

(a) Creating a network of regional centres for the development of technologies for ecologically sound tropical agriculture;

(b) Formulating an international information-dissemination programme with a view to identifying ecologically sound technologies in the tropical area;

(c) Establishing international technological assessment programmes for the purpose of a technology transfer appropriate to the ecological and socio-economic conditions of the tropical area;

(d) Establishing technological research and innovation programmes that integrate the approaches of local or regional appropriate technologies with those of conventional and advanced technologies;

(e) Formulating programmes for the transfer of new agricultural technologies into the hands of farmers;

(f) Strengthening the endogenous capacity of science and technology to establish an ecologically sound tropical agriculture on a better footing;

(g) Providing training in the negotiation of patents and in intellectual property rights arising from ecologically sound agricultural technologies.

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LAND RESOURCES: DEFORESTATION

Compilation of views of Governments on forests

1. The present document contains a compilation of the proposals submitted by Governments on the basis of Preparatory Commitee decision 3/15, in which the Preparatory Committee invited Governments to submit to the secretariat of the Conference not later than 1 October 1991 further proposals for Agenda 21 on forests, which proposals and the views expressed at the third session of the Preparatory Committee would be taken into account in the document to be prepared by the secretariat for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

BRAZIL

2. Brazil believes that document A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.3 should be reformulated in order to reflect clearly options that promote protection and restoration of forests and combine this goal with the need for sustained economic growth, in particular in developing countries, and world-wide sustainable development.

3. More emphasis should be placed on the area of the economics of forest protection. That means incorporating the issue of market prices of forest products, including non-timber products, their production costs, and the

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* See A/CONF.151/PC/96.

access of developing countries to technical and financial means to ensure the protection and rational use of forests.

4. Although the issues of biodiversity and biotechnology are dealt with in other documents, the document on options for Agenda 21 on the issue of forests should not be silent on those issues. Activities involving biodiversity and access to biotechnology should also be incorporated in the options on forests. After all biological diversity cross-cuts other issues of our agenda and particular attention should be devoted to biological diversity existent in forest areas.

5. More adequate focus should also be given in the documents to assistance and development needs of local communities - education, health, training.

6. Regarding the specific programme areas, the purposes of establishing an intergovernmental forest monitoring panel in programme area C are not clear.

7. In programme area B, funding should not be restricted to afforestation and reforestation. Moreover, funds should be provided on the basis of new and additional resources.

8. Programme area C does not refer to afforestation and reforestation programmes near the sources of GHG missions.

9. Programme area D: the purpose of activity (d) should be clarified, in particular, with regard to international organization for management and monitoring of protected areas.

10. Programme area H: more emphasis should be given to economic evaluation of forests and its natural assets. Reference to production costs is omitted.

11. Such programme area should be broader, in order to encompass a whole range of activities in the field of the economics of forest protection.

12. Activity (e) is limited because it concentrates only on wood products. It should also encompass non-wood products and local processing of all natural assets of forests.

13. Emphasis should be placed on more concrete modalities for effective transfer of technology and provision of financial resources.

14. Activity (b) in programme area I should not be limited to every agreement. Endogenous capacity-building should be more strengthened in developing countries through support to research and development institutions, training, access to scientific information and equipment. The capacity of these institutions to develop forest-related technology should be strengthened.

CANADA

15. Canada believes that Agenda 21 objectives should consist of only a small number of direct and dramatic proposals designed to not only enhance world forests but capture our national leaders' imagination and obtain their long-term commitment. The proposed actions should be consistent with the principle of sovereignty, and be primarily in the socio-economic and environmental interest of individual States.

A. Contribute to the greening of the world by committing to specific forest cover by 2000 - both working forest and protected unique and representative forests types - and to report progress through periodic reports on the state of forests world wide.

B. Review and revitalize national, regional and world institutions and programmes dealing with forests.

C. Strengthen forest research, particularly on the management of forest ecosystems for multiple values and rehabilitation of degraded forest land.

D. Promote industry and trade in products derived from sustainably managed forest resources.

E. Provide options and opportunities for indigenous and other forest communities to gain their livelihood in ways that enhance forest ecosystems rather than degrading them.

F. Agree that the guiding principles, to be adopted at UNCED, shall constitute a departure point for negotiation after UNCED of a legally binding convention of the conservation and sustainable development of forests world wide, with commitments that would be flexible and subject to a "pledge and review" process.

16. Canada believes that Agenda 21 objectives should consist of only a small number of direct and dramatic proposals designed to not only enhance world forests but capture our national leaders' imagination and obtain their long-term commitment. The proposed actions should be consistent with the principle of sovereignty and be primarily in the socio-economic and environmental interest of individual States.

A. CONTRIBUTE TO THE GREENING OF THE WORLD BY COMMITTING TO SPECIFIC FOREST COVER BY 2000.

We would propose three types of targets, moving from the most to the least extensive.

1. The first and the most extensive target could be "total forest cover", embracing all kinds of forests - natural, replanted and new plantations.

   (a) Planting programmes

   (b) Rehabilitation of degraded lands.

2. The second target could be "permanent forest cover", embracing those areas of a country which have been designated through national land use policies to be permanently kept under forest cover, rather than open for conversion to other kinds of land use. A number of delegations have already referred to the need for this action in their interventions on guiding principles. This target would include forest land slated for commercial exploitation under management schemes that permit regeneration of the forest, in order to maintain its status as productive forest land.

3. The third and the least extensive target could be "protected natural forests", embracing examples of representative and unique forest types protected from commercial exploitation in order to conserve their biodiversity and other ecological values.

4. Report progress through periodic reports on the state of forests world wide.

5. Establish and strengthen supporting mechanisms.

B. REVIEW AND REVITALIZE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND WORLD INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMMES DEALING WITH FORESTS.

1. Establish a clear institutional focus and a strengthened leadership role to coordinate international forest-related activities world wide.

2. Support the ongoing review and revitalization of Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP).

3. Ensure that the renegotiation of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) clarifies its role and clearly reflects:

   (a) The changes in the world attitude towards tropical forests;

   (b) Commitment of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to sustainable forestry.

4. Establish and strengthen supporting mechanisms.

C. STRENGTHEN FOREST RESEARCH, PARTICULARLY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS FOR MULTIPLE VALUES AND REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED FOREST LAND.

1. Increase international research capacities to improve our ability to predict, thus prevent, negative consequences of human interventions.

2. Ensure that all countries have the capacity to prepare and disseminate timely, accurate and comprehensive reports on the state of forests that include timber as well as non-timber forest values.

3. Establish and strengthen supporting mechanisms.

D. PROMOTE INDUSTRY AND TRADE IN PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM SUSTAINABLY MANAGED FOREST RESOURCES.

1. Through renegotiation of the ITTA.

2. Through voluntary adoption of internationally accepted criteria for sustainable forest management.

3. Through the establishment and strengthening of supporting mechanisms.

E. PROVIDE OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS AND OTHER FOREST COMMUNITIES TO GAIN THEIR LIVELIHOOD IN WAYS THAT ENHANCE FOREST ECOSYSTEMS RATHER THAN DEGRADING THEM.

1. Encourage activities that support the indigenous way of life, consistent with the stewardship of forests.

2. Provide sustainable forest and non-forest alternatives for fuelwood, food, fibre and shelter to those who are currenlty dependent on a depleting source of supply.

3. Establish and strengthen supporting mechanisms.

F. AGREE THAT THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES, TO BE ADOPTED AT UNCED, SHALL CONSTITUTE A DEPARTURE POINT FOR NEGOTIATION AFTER UNCED OF A LEGALLY BINDING CONVENTION OF THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTS WORLD WIDE.

1. World leaders at the Conference would approve the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee.

2. That committee would be under the Economic and Social Council, which would determine a timetable and establish a secretariat.

3. Though the convention would be legally binding, commitments would be flexible and voluntary on the basis of "pledge and review".

4. Establish and strengthen supporting mechanisms.

FRANCE

17. Document A/CONF.151/PC/65 could be arranged in four parts:

1. General principles

2. Principles for action

3. Areas of action

4. Operational tools to be developed

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1.1 Paragraph 3: (Stewardship)

(a) The services provided by forests are of three kinds:

- Meeting the needs of society (wood, other forest products);

- Strengthening the physical environment (soil maintenance, water conservation, shade, habitat for a rich and diversified fauna and flora, landscape harmony, etc.);

- Safeguarding the right of future generations to enjoy these benefits under the same conditions. This creates an obligation for appropriate action.

1.2 Integrated approach

(a) Stress the necessity for an approach which combines an effective environmental protection policy with a development policy, as this is the only approach capable of striking at the root causes of deforestation, namely, poverty, the search for food security and the satisfaction of basic energy needs. Furthermore, sustainable development will only be attained if environmentally safer practices are adopted;

(b) Emphasize that a coherent forest policy must respect and utilize the many functions and applications of the forest, whether ecological, economic or social;

(c) Insist categorically that the forest should not be considered in isolation, but that forest policy should be integrated in a land management and comprehensive development approach;

(d) Stress the necessity for a comprehensive approach based on the simultaneous implementation of management, conservation, research and training activities.

1.3 Paragraph 7: Sustainable management

The full significance and scope of this concept must be clarified.

1.4 Paragraph 4: Global coverage

The field of application should, nevertheless, be limited to those areas which national forest plans designate for forest development, and should not include all areas suitable for afforestation.

1.5 Paragraph 2: Sovereignty of States

1.6 Paragraph 6: Principle of subsidiarity

(a) Problems should first be tackled at the appropriate level, in other words, at a level which is conducive to a proper appreciation of all their implications and to their solution and is as close as possible to the field: local, regional or national;

(b) Forestry plans must be elaborated at all levels (concept of forest management). The institutions responsible for their elaboration must be instructed to implement them in a manner that is both flexible and firm, made possible by interaction between results evaluation, on the one hand, procedures and programmes, on the other;

(c) The length of forest cycles renders essential the continuity of policies and resources.

1.7 Paragraph 4: Principle of common responsibility

(a) Stress that certain problems can be correctly identified and/or solved only in the context of international cooperation;

(b) Reaffirm the implications of the concept of the world's natural heritage;

(c) Recall the efforts which have already been undertaken, in particular through international organizations and agreements, without concealing the shortcomings that have been revealed.

1.8 Paragraphs 8 and 9 in part: Non-interference in the negotiations under way on the conventions on climate change and biological diversity.

2. PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION

2.1 Paragraphs 13 and 14 to be redrafted: involvement of local populations in decisions and in their implementation

- The recognition of the rights of forest-dwelling populations and of the role of women should be presented as an illustration and a particular instance of this more general principle;

- Recognize that if forest policies are to be effective, it is essential to clarify the land-rights situation, making it possible to identify the individuals involved in the management of the different kinds of land (forested, agricultural and urban), to specify their degree of accountability and to detect changes in land designation;

2.2 Paragraph 18: economic and trade policy

- To eliminate, wherever practicable, subsidies and tax or other legal provisions which encourage deforestation and unsound forestry practices;

- Recall the GATT rules on free trade in timber, but encourage all measures aimed at ensuring that timber placed on the market is derived to an increasing extent from properly managed and administered forests or from land clearance projects carried out in the context of a coherent and responsible land management and comprehensive development policy;

- Stress that financial resources resulting from the sale of all forest products, at a fair price, on national and international markets must be sufficient to cover a large part of the costs and financial risks inherent in the environmentally responsible management of forest ecosystems.

2.3 Principle of reversibility

- Recognize that the extent and distribution of forest areas, as well as the ways in which these areas are managed, are primarily the result of socio-economic forces operating, for the most part, outside the forest area;

- Demonstrate how, for these reasons, it is logical that forest areas should be able to fluctuate to a significant extent in a matter of centuries, provided that the biological production potential of the soils and the local biological diversity are preserved, thereby guaranteeing the reversibility of the process.

2.4 Agricultural environment

- Draw attention to the fact that the history of forests frequently consists of a long succession of conflicts of interest and competition for the use of forested areas between foresters and rural communities, which are only resolved with the introduction of an efficient agricultural system capable of meeting the food needs of society.

2.5 Cogent principle of the rational management of forest resources

- Emphasize that many of the most alarming problems come from the waste of natural resources, not from the actual principle of the rational exploitation of these resources.

3. AREAS OF ACTION

3.1 Policies on the designation of land for agricultural use or for forests, based on sound management of the production potential of soils and on the maintenance of their fertility;

3.2 Paragraph 9 reworded: the protection of significant ecological niches situated in forests and the conservation of genetic resources, based on specific management modalities or on the setting aside of certain areas as reserves;

3.3 (Implicit in paragraph 8): reducing forest fires and fires of subforestal vegetation; limiting the degradation of plant formations (in particular, desertification), and combating soil erosion processes;

4.4 The sustainable management of forest stands, involving adapted methods of exploitation and regeneration, as well as the generalization of forest management systems (at local, regional and national levels), taking into account the ways in which forest ecosystems function and the risks of their dysfunctioning, particularly the more fragile among them;

4.5 Paragraph 12: (implicit in paragraph 8): afforestation and reforestation programmes, permitting a supply of goods and services appropriate to the current and foreseeable needs of local populations and of the market while striving to create ecologically balanced stands;

4.6 Increased efficiency in logging and timber-processing operations;

4.7 Promoting the use of wooden materials in the construction and furniture industries, to encourage the storage of carbon;

4.8 Paragraph 4: energy recovery from biomass using technically efficient procedures, in the context of rational management of this resource in order to economize on fossil fuels.

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4.1 Paragraph 15: research and monitoring

4.2 Paragraph 16: education and training

4.3 Paragraph 17: access to information

4.4 Paragraph 19: international assistance

4.5 Paragraph 20: strengthening of international institutional arrangements.

JAPAN

18. The Government of Japan presents this paper as options for an action plan on forest issues which should be discussed in the course of the debate on this issue, and hopes that it will constitute a part of the Agenda 21.

I. Specific actions at national level

1. Conservation and sustainable management of the existing forests

a. Acquire more accurate and extensive information on forest resources by systematizing various techniques, including ground survey, remote sensing, etc. Introduce periodic monitoring system.

b. Formulate a long-term forest conservation and management policy which is consistent with the country's other policy areas such as development, industry, environmental protection and land use. Develop a forest-related policy-making process which is conducive to the above-mentioned purpose. As for tropical forests, pay special attention to "the year 2000 target" set by ITTO.

c. Categorize forests, in the framework of the long-term forest conservation and management policy, into different forest types (such as timber production forest, forest for the conservation of biological diversity, forest to be converted for other uses) according to their intended functions, and set up sustainable management unit in every region/watershed to conserve and sustainably manage forests.

d. Calculate the AAC (Annual Allowable Cut) in each sustainable management unit or concession unit. Add up those unit-based AACs to obtain regional/watershed and integrated national AACs.

e. Conduct an advance Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on those activities which may have significant influence over the conservation and sustainable use of forest.

f. Clarify forest-related rights and obligations of local people/community such as customary use and concessions. These rights and obligations should be well-taken into account in the forest conservation and management policy.

g. Draw up appropriate technical guideline manuals of logging, transport, regeneration, tending, etc. for the conservation and sustainable use of each forest type. Train foresters based on those manuals.

h. Design measures to be taken by the government (e.g. 5-year plan) based on the forest conservation and management policy and take necessary steps concerning budget and personal allocation for their implementation.

2. Designating and protecting the forests which are important for the conservation of biological diversity.

a. Acquire information on the habitat of wild animals and plants by conducting surveys on forests as well as making use of existing knowledge on forests. Specify forest area (conservation areas) which are important for the conservation of biological diversity but losing its diversity rapidly with a view to establishing conservation areas.

b. Incorporate the conservation areas into the forest conservation and management plan. Include in the plan the measures which can be taken to conserve biological diversity.

c. Promote necessary actions for the adequate management of conservation areas, including legal measures such as establishing national parks and wildlife protection areas which consist of core zones and buffer zones.

d. Develop an appropriate organizational arrangement for the management of the conservation areas. Ensure that the areas be appropriately managed according to a management plan in which the results of researches and monitoring should be well reflected. Conduct and advance Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on those activities which may have significant influence over the biological diversity of those areas.

e. Encourage well-planned forest operations in the buffer zone, whose use is partially permitted, to minimize their negative influence over the biological diversity. Design technical guidelines for that end.

f. Respect the local people's traditional and customary use of forests even in the specified conservation areas to the extent that it does not have significant negative influence over their biological diversity. Promote local people's participation in the activities to conserve biological diversity. Identify effective use of eco-tourism and promote it.

3. Restoring the forests already lost or degraded

   a. Formulate a long-term national afforestation/reforestation plan based on regional/watershed plans, and identify the purposes and roles of such afforested/reforested forests. Specify those areas which need to be afforested/reforested urgently in the long-term plan and give priorities to them.

   b. Conduct studies on technical, financial and executing aspects of the afforestation/reforestation plan as regards each prioritized region/watershed, together with a calculation of their economic viability.

   c. Strengthen emergency afforestation/reforestation activities with due consideration to budgetary and personnel measures. Specify the expected roles to be played by different sectors (Government, private sector, local people, etc.) in those activities.

   d. Promote the introduction of social forestry and agroforestry and examine various measures to provide incentives with a view to expanding an afforestation/reforestation promotion system which contributes to the local people's participation and their economic development.

4. Promoting comprehensive development and conservation plan for the welfare of the rural community

   a. Ensure that the forest conservation and management policy is consistent with the comprehensive development plan of the rural communities. Reflect the local people's customary use of forests and land in the development plan.

   b. Include the surveys on the socio-economic aspect of the relationship between forests and the forest-dependent people as well as on the aspect of the scenic and recreational value of forests in the comprehensive development and conservation plan.

   c. Encourage active participation of local communities and people in the formulation of the development and conservation plans.

   d. Coordinate the land and watershed areas, which are the units of sustainable management, with the units of development plan for rural communities.

5. Encouraging the sound and effective forestry activities

   a. Prevent any discrepancy between the AAC and rotation years set for each management unit, and the present and future plans of actual operation.

b. Promote, as for tropical forests, the application of the ITTO guidelines for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests as well as of planted tropical forests and, as a means to do it, formulate a national annual action plan with necessary monitoring of its implementation.

c. Provide economic incentives to the individuals and organizations which (who) are securely achieving the sustainable management of their forests.

d. Pay enough attention to the regeneration of forest resources in formulating the logging operation plan by preserving mother trees, adopting the logging methods which minimize negative impacts on forests, etc.

e. Conduct a continuous monitoring of the logging operation, regeneration situation, etc.

6. Promoting effective timber consumption and the effective use of wood

a. Encourage diversification and increase in the added value of tropical timber products to secure the sufficient trade revenue of the producing countries.

b. Reduce the waste of timber through rational and efficient use. Promote long use and recycling of timber products as durable goods. Enhance public awareness of proper lifestyle in relation to timber use.

c. Stabilize the trade of tropical timber and its products and optimize the import by such measures as improving the market information.

7. Promoting studies, education and public relations on forestry and other forest-related issues

a. Establish a comprehensive forest monitoring system to grasp the state of forests including their public benefits and ecosystems as well as their utilization with a view to securing adequate use of forests. Establish, further, networks among the monitoring systems both at national and international levels.

b. Take measures to provide further education to foresters who are in control of actual operations, with a particular emphasis on enhancing their professional morale (including measures to provide them with additional incentives).

c. Strengthen public relation activities in order to secure the active participation of local people in the sustainable management of forests.

d. Examine and introduce policy measures in order to integrate the economic and environmental values of forests, by developing the method of accounting the value of forests as multiple-use resources and reflecting it in the calculation of profitability of forest management. Promote education activities for the public in this respect.

e. Encourage research on subjects such as,

(i) the causality between forests and global warming including the abilities of different kinds of forest to sequester CO_2 and the influence of climate change over forests,

(ii) methods to assess forests which are important from the viewpoint of biological diversity, influence of various logging methods over biological diversity of forests, techniques to utilize forests with special attention to the conservation of biological diversity and techniques to restore forest ecosystems,

(iii) cultural and social life of indigenous people in forests,

(iv) social forestry (community forestry),

(v) recreational and scenic values of forests,

(vi) eco-tourism.

8. Fortifying the system and agencies related to forests and forestry

a. Improve the current system so as to properly deploy experienced foresters to the operation sites and consider providing additional incentives to them with a view to securing the management of forests according to the plan.

b. Strengthen and expand the competence of foresters in the formulation of development policies, land use policies, etc., both at operational and planning levels. Strengthen and streamline the forest-related agencies.

c. Secure the market transparency and stabilization of timber trade through various measures such as the monitoring of timber imports.

II. Initiatives at international level

Strengthen and promote public relation activities, exchange of information as well as international cooperation in the human, technical, financial field with a view to establishing a practical and workable system of forest conservation and sustainable management which includes

urgent afforestation/reforestation activities. Promote, inter alia, international cooperation projects in such areas as research, various types of monitoring, education and training, establishment and maintenance of protected areas, EIA, improvement of timber processing technology. Strengthen assistance to developing countries particularly in the following fields.

1. Provision of education, training and machinery to promote sound forestry activities.

2. Achievement of "the year 2000 target" set by the ITTO concerning tropical timber trade.

3. Transfer, through joint-ventures for example, of technologies to producing countries in order to encourage increased and further processing of timber and increase of the added value of timber products through such means as developing new timber products.

4. Establishment of a market mechanism in which the costs of sustainable management are duly covered by timber prices.

5. Assessment and selection of forests which are important from the viewpoint of biological diversity. Specification and management of the conservation areas, staff training.

6. Review of existing systems and examination of measures with a view to strengthening the activities of international organizations including research institutes.

7. Enhancement of public understanding, both at regional and international levels, of the importance of afforestation/reforestation.

MALAYSIA

19. Malaysia has the following comments on document A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.3:

(a) Programme area A, additional activity: developing and intensifying forest inventories and land availability assessment for afforestation: these assessments should include information not only on biomass, land tenure, natural and plantation forests but also on non-wood forest produce;

(b) Programme area B, additional activity: developing mechanisms to support and promote national afforestation and reforestation programmes, including funding provisions:

(i) The title of the programme area should also include the development of mechanisms to support and promote national rehabilitation programmes of selectively harvested forests including funding provisions;

(ii) Funding mechanisms should not only address plantation efforts but also the rehabilitation of selectively harvested forests under sustainable management;

(iii) In-depth studies on the carbon cycle relating to different forest types should also include selectively harvested forests especially those in the tropics.

(c) Programme area B, additional adtivity: increasing the generation of income through the encouragement of industry and trade in forest products based on sustainably managed forest resources. The programme area should also include the following:

(i) The establishment of norms and criteria for the sustainable management, utilization and development for the various types of forests in the world and for each of the functional uses of the respective forest type;

(ii) The development of mechanisms for factoring environmental and social costs into prices for forest products as well as the promotion of under-utilized species of tropical forests.

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NETHERLANDS

20. The Netherlands is largely in agreement with the options for Agenda 21 presented in document A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.3. However, every effort should be made to use existing activities and organizations (avoiding proliferation). As far as forests are concerned, the attempt to make Agenda 21 as concrete as possible has been very successful. However, in addition to the identification of these concrete points requiring action, priority must be assigned to issuing a separate ministerial/political statement incorporating the elements formulated.

21. In the case of programme area A, it is not only surface area and forest biomass that should be considered; where possible, other services and products should also be looked at.

22. In the case of programme area E, "social acceptability" could be incorporated in the objectives. It should be noted that large-scale afforestation is only possible in a limited number of tropical countries. The annual target stated in objective (b) is not based on clear arguments, and conflicts with the Noordwijk declaration.

23. Programme area H: the following insertion should be made in activity (c): "Support the implementation of the ITTO guidelines by means of national guidelines".

24. The following new activities are proposed under programme area H:

(a) "Promote incentives, including economic and financial ones, for sustainable forest management";

(b) "Intensify research on the effects of international trade in tropical timber on sustainable forest management and on the use of trade instruments".

* * *

TUNISIA

25. With regard to deforestation, the following elements should be included in document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/CRP.14/Rev.1:

(a) The fragility of subtropical forests increases their risks of degradation and makes them more vulnerable to human activities conducted inside and in the vicinity of forest areas. These forests should therefore be regarded as a fragile national natural heritage and appropriate measures should be taken to develop, safeguard, conserve and protect them;

(b) Set forth in detail the following components of an action programme:

(i) Promote the integrated development of forest areas in subtropical zones by diversifying sources of income and subsistence for the population of such areas;

(ii) Step up efforts to protect forests and prevent forest fires;

(iii) Take the populations living in forest areas into consideration in forest and pasture-land development projects and promote handicrafts and ecologically-sound tourism in these areas.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

26. The global objective should be: "Achieve conservation and sustainable management of all forests to meet present and future human needs for human needs for economic and ecological services".

Programme areas

A. GREENING THE WORLD through the pursuit of national goals and objectives. Specific actions could include:

1. Commitment to begin negotiations within an agreed time after the Conference;

2. Designation/establishment of a negotiating forum.

C. HARNESSING MARKET FORCES to help meet national interests to improve the long-term health and productivity of forest resources for the production of employment, income, forest products, services, recreation and habitat. Specific actions could include:

1. Improving economic and social accounting;

2. Freer trade;

3. Improving accounting for environmental costs and benefits.

D. ACHIEVING COMMON INTERESTS by improving coordination and cooperation among institutions and better integrating programmes based on the statement of principles on forests. For example, coordination and cooperation among the following:

1. United Nations organizations and programmes;

2. Regional organizations and programmes;

3. Bilateral organizations and programmes;

4. Local and indigenous communities;

5. Finance and trade;

6. Technology programmes;

7. Non-governmental organizations and activities.

E. MEASURING GLOBAL PROGRESS through inventories of key variables. For example, specific actions could be taken to inventory or assess:

1. Sustainable capability to meet demands for forest products, services and non-market values;

2. Forest health;

3. Biological diversity, including species, habitat and ecosystem diversity;

4. Deforestation rates and patterns;

5. Ecological changes;

6. Other current and projected changes, including conversion to other uses; and

7. The effects and sustainability of forest management practices.

VENEZUELA

(also on behalf of Argentina and Mexico)

27. The following comments are made:

(a) Programme Area A: "Developing and intensifying forest inventories and land availability assessment for afforestation":

1. Basis for Action: acceptable as is.

2. Objectives:

(a) Acceptable.

(b) Strengthen existing or establish new mechanisms at the national level for the development of permanent forest resources, monitoring and assessment.

(c) Facilitate and encourage the timely and regular exchange of data on forest resources between States by means of the transfer of technology and technical training.

3. Activities:

(a) Add at the end: with the sensed State participating actively in the collection and interpretation of data.

(b) Acceptable.

(c) Acceptable.

(d) Acceptable.

(e) Delete paragraph (e).

(b) Programme Area B: "Developing mechanisms for global/regional/national afforestation and reforestation including provisions for large-scale global funding for forests":

1. Basis for Action:

(a) Acceptable.

(b) Insert as the second sentence:

Such financial cooperation must be in proportion to the national surface area protected for natural forests.

(c) Acceptable.

2. Objectives:

(a) Acceptable.

(b) The new global fund or ecofund should consist of new resources, additional to existing ones and to those for development assistance, channelled in a timely and speedy manner.

3. Activities:

(a) Acceptable.

(b) Acceptable.

(c) Add: <u>with equitable participation in the allocation of resources by the developing countries</u>.

(c) Programme Area C:

1. Basis for Action:

(a) Insert a new second sentence:

IPCC promotes the collection of scientific and technical information in order to reduce uncertainty and sustain the process of negotiating a general agreement on climate change through INC.

2. Objectives:

(a) Acceptable.

(b) Acceptable.

3. Activities:

(a) Acceptable.

(b) Acceptable.

(c) Acceptable.

(d) Programme Area E: "Encouraging and supporting large-scale planting programmes".

1. Basis for Action: acceptable.

2. Objectives:

(a) Promote a world reforestation programme undertaken and financed by the international community.

(b) (Replace by former subparagraph (a)).

(c) Reforest 5 per cent of the surface area of each country with timber-yielding forests over the next 25 years and establish a national commitment to halt the deforestation of existing northern, temperate, subtropical and tropical primary forests in each of them. It will also be necessary to establish a commitment on the part of each State to halt, by the end of this period, the non-sustainable exploitation of existing primary forests.

3. Activities:

(a) Acceptable.

(b) Acceptable.

(c) Acceptable.

(d) The world reforestation programme will provide financial support to States in proportion to the forested surface area.

(e) (Former subparagraph (d)).

(f) (Former subparagraph (e)).

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PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Compilation of views of Governments on the atmosphere

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document is a compilation of views on the atmosphere submitted by the Governments of Canada, Netherlands and Tunisia after the third session of the Preparatory Committee. At the request of the Preparatory Committee it has been prepared as part of the input into the discussions on the Agenda 21 options for atmosphere at the fourth session. (See also A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.1 and A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.25/Rev.2.)

II. SUBMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

2. Protection of the atmosphere: suggested programme areas are as follows:

Protection of the atmosphere through:

A. Promoting environmentally sound sustainable energy management and development:

1. Promoting the energy transition;

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* See A/CONF.151/PC/96.

2. Increasing energy efficiency;

3. Promoting renewable energy sources;

B. Promoting environmentally sound and sustainable transport systems;

C. Promoting sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles;

D. Promoting environmentally sound and sustainable industrial management and development;

E. Promoting sustainable land-use management and development;

F. Promoting increased awareness and improving the knowledge-base/understanding:

a. Education and awareness;

b. Information;

c. Reducing the uncertainties.

General comments

3. As Canada has stated on a number of occasions, this component of Agenda 21 should have as its overall objective the protection of the atmosphere. This should be properly reflected in the overall introduction to this component of Agenda 21 and/or the basis of action for each programme area. The "chapeau" to the programme areas - "Protection of the atmosphere through:" - is one means of providing the required emphasis as to what the following programme areas and associated activities are designed to accomplish. It identifies the following programme areas as ones which, when implemented, will contribute to the protection of the atmosphere. It thereby provides the link between the programme areas and General Assembly resolution 44/228.

4. The grouping of the three energy programme areas under one heading recognizes the overall goal of the associated activities and provides a linkage between them. It further provides an opportunity, in the form of an introductory paragraph, to identify the link between the atmosphere issues, energy and development objectives in terms of both causes and solutions.

5. There is some advantage to be gained by grouping the activities on education, awareness, and information into one programme area. The requirement is not only for increased education and awareness related to the concept of promoting the energy transition or promoting sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles. The requirement is for education and increased awareness of the need to respect the atmosphere/environment and to ensure that the necessary information is available for making fully informed decisions. Compiling the proposed education, awareness and information

activities under a single programme area would better reflect the need for a broad yet integrated basis for the decision-making process.

6. The suggested change in the title of the programme for the "Industrial management and development" area reflects the need to recognize that industrial management and development should not only be carried out in a manner that does not adversely impact on the atmosphere but also in such a manner that can take advantage of opportunities which could improve the quality of the atmosphere.

7. The broadening of the protection of the atmosphere component of Agenda 21 to consider not only climate change but transboundary air pollution and stratospheric ozone depletion necessitates that the introduction be revised. This could be accomplished by introducing a new paragraph before the current paragraph 1 of A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.25/Rev.2, which provides an introduction to the full range of the atmospheric issues covered by the programme areas. This should be followed by paragraphs, as appropriate, similar to paragraph 1, for transboundary air pollution and for stratospheric ozone depletion.

8. The following text is suggested:

> The protection of the atmosphere component of Agenda 21 includes activities to protect the atmosphere by combating climate change, depletion of the ozone layer and transboundary air pollution, as well as identifying the means of implementing those activities. This component of Agenda 21 is flexible and evolving reflecting the changes in the scientific understanding of the issues, its impacts, and response strategies and the state of the international efforts in developing the necessary political responses.
>
> Each of these issues, to one degree or another, is being examined in other fora. In terms of the climate change issue this includes the negotiations on climate change within the International Negotiating Committee which is addressing many of the issues contained in the following text. In so far as the following proposals refer to climate related activities under negotiations by the INC, they should not pre-empt, duplicate or be interpreted as prejudging those negotiations concerning questions that may arise, and be discussed there, such as general objectives and commitments, standards, conditionality, institutional arrangements and mechanisms for funding incremental costs.
>
> Efforts to study and control the depletion of the ozone layer have been under way for many years. A mature, effective, self-supporting institutional framework has been developed to deal with ozone layer depletion. It includes specific legal agreements (The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer), financial arrangements (The Convention and Protocol "Trust Funds" as well as the "Interim Multilateral Fund"), and an administrative infrastructure (provided through UNEP). This framework provides for coordination of scientific research and atmospheric monitoring, measures to control the production

and consumption of ozone depleting substances, incentives and penalties to encourage participation, and special consideration of and support to developing countries. Experience from the global efforts to combat ozone layer depletion provides many useful lessons and models that could be applied to some degree to other atmospheric and environmental issues. In so far as the following proposals refer to activities under consideration by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, they should not pre-empt, duplicate or be interpreted as prejudging the results of the existing process or activities.

Transboundary air pollution contributes to many human health and environmental problems throughout the world (e.g., acid rain, tropospheric ozone, and the accumulation of persistent organochlorine compounds). Combating transboundary air pollution is primarily a regional problem. There are, however, advantages to coordinating and cooperating at the global level particularly in terms of monitoring and assessment, sharing of information and experience on control strategies, increasing public awareness of the problem and solutions, research, and development and demonstration of related technologies.

9. The following comments and suggestions are made for activities under the programme areas (all paragraph references are to A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.25/Rev.2):

A. Promoting environmentally sound energy management and development:

- Introductory paragraph that relates the need for action in the energy sector to the goals of protection of the atmosphere as a means of achieving sustainable development.

1. Promoting the energy transition:

(a) Paragraph 4: The current wording suggests that all current energy production and consumption is "polluting and wasteful", which is not true. Insert a qualifying phrase such as "in those instances where present production and consumption ...".

(b) Paragraph 4: new developments should also consider the full costs, applicability and appropriateness of technologies for a particular situation in addition to whether they are the most efficient and least polluting.

(c) Paragraph 5: This is not an objective but appears to be more of an activity. Support for this type of target/schedule may be difficult due to the problems with defining environmentally sound energy systems, especially when the constraints identified in paragraph 7 are taken into consideration. In particular, these targets/schedules would need to recognize the rights of each country to choose its own path to the transition.

(d) Paragraph 9 (f): consumers should also be included.

(e) Need for an activity which recognizes the need for management and development of fossil fuel based energy systems which are more environmentally sound (see objective, paragraph 4). This would include the need for the necessary research, development and information dissemination programmes.

(f) Need for an activity which addresses the issues associated with the transition from the existing systems to the "new" systems and how this transition can build on the existing systems (e.g., infrastructure).

(g) Need for an activity on the production of energy from wastes such as collecting energy from waste (e.g., methane from landfill sites) and use of wastes to create energy.

2. Increasing energy efficiency:

(a) Paragraph 13: the use of market forces to increase output per unit of energy input and reduce the environmental impacts per unit activity should be referenced here.

(b) Paragraph 15 (b): amend the last line to read - "... through policy measures which are cost effective.".

(c) Several of the activities proposed under this heading are the subject of negotiations with the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, and care will need to be taken to ensure that they do not duplicate, pre-empt or prejudge the negotiations within that process.

3. Promoting renewable energy sources:

(a) Paragraph 19: should add a qualifier - "where cost effective" after the word "policies" in the second line or a qualifier such as "countries should/could review or consider developing policies ...".

(b) Paragraph 20 (b): add a reference to utilizing the private sector, for example, through joint ventures.

(c) Activities should be directed at local application and adaptation of viable (defined locally) renewable energy resources. More specifically it should be recognized that the issue of energy from renewable sources (e.g., biomass) is not just a technical issue, but one involving managing local renewable resources in a sustainable manner.

(d) Need to recognize the role of better local application and adaptation of viable existing and new renewable energy technologies with improved local management of renewable resources. Large increases in funding for R&D of ESES and new technologies are not the only nor most viable solution to energy-atmosphere problems. The key technical issue is the viable adaptation of existing and new technologies to local conditions.

B. Promoting environmentally sound and sustainable transport systems:

1. Paragraph 24: the wording in this paragraph should be changed to provide a balance between environmentally sound practices and economic development.

2. Need to recognize the role of alternative fuels (separate activity).

3. Need to include activities which, recognizing the contribution of air and marine transport to atmospheric problems, put forward potential solutions. This could include actions regarding fuel efficiency, routing, and exploring alternative forms of air (e.g., air ship) and marine (sail and sail/power combinations) transport.

4. Need to include recognition that addressing this programme also requires action related to integrating the need for environmentally sound and sustainable transport systems into urban planning and management.

5. Need to encourage governments and relevant United Nations and other international organizations to explore with municipalities and other urban organizations the potential for mass transit and land-use planning to contribute to reducing the impact of transport systems on the atmosphere.

6. Countries and United Nations and other relevant international organizations should encourage the development of integrated mass transit systems (land, air and marine) and encourage the exchange of information on the relative costs and benefits of various options and combinations.

C. Promoting sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles:

1. Sustainable consumptions patterns and lifestyles in terms of protection of the atmosphere are more than just energy.

2. Overall objective should be to integrate atmospheric/environmental objectives into the decision-making process at all levels.

3. Paragraph 28: Suggesting that differences in energy use as measured on a per capita basis are due to overuse of energy by the affluent is an oversimplification. The premise confuses energy efficiency and energy intensity in many cases. Some countries are high users of energy because of climate, geography and because of the energy intensity of their industrial base, yet these countries are relatively energy efficient. This paragraph should be reworded to emphasize ending wasteful energy consumption patterns through more sustainable lifestyles.

4. Paragraph 32 (a): All countries should/could promote sustainable lifestyles ...

5. Paragraph 32 (f): This paragraph should be deleted and the issue of greenhouse gas emission levels should be left for negotiations within the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

6. Need to recognize that current consumption patterns and lifestyles in both developed and developing countries can contribute to degradation of the quality of the local, regional and global atmosphere and are in many cases non-sustainable. The problem, although to a large extent related to energy consumption, is also related to the generation and management of wastes in various forms.

7. Activities should lead to identification of potential for and implementation, as appropriate, of energy conservation programmes, as well as sustainable/environmentally sound recycling, reusing and reducing programmes for wastes of all kinds, especially those emitted into the atmosphere.

8. Need to identify the factors which contribute to current consumption patterns (e.g., climate, geography, resource base, etc.).

9. Need to consider the impacts of climate change in terms of defining sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles.

10. Indicators for "sufficient energy service requirements" would be difficult to develop and maintain even at the national level and would be of limited use because of the variety of factors that would need to be integrated and their dynamic characteristics.

11. Global ceiling on per capita energy consumption is a concept currently under negotiation with the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and, therefore, should not be included in Agenda 21 at this time.

D. Promoting environmentally sound and sustainable industrial management and development:

1. Industry should be interpreted to include the activities of not only the "private" sector (including service and commercial industries) but also of the "public" sector with control strategies and management tools directed to address both sectors.

2. Control strategies should be developed in a coordinated and integrated manner that considers potential impacts on all atmospheric and environmental issues and not just on an issue by issue basis (e.g., many ozone substitutes are greenhouse gases or can contribute to atmospheric pollution).

3. Activities should be directed at:

(a) Need to develop methodologies which could be used to calculate the full costs and benefits of control options and to promote studies which document these costs and benefits at the national and/or regional levels;

(b) Developing emission inventory methodologies;

(c) Reducing emissions to the atmosphere from industrial processes;

(d) Reducing waste/increasing efficiency of industrial processes;

(e) Responsible life-cycle management of products and wastes, etc. which includes environmental audits;

(f) Integrating into the decision making-process for the management and development of natural resources industries (e.g., forestry, fisheries, mining) the impacts of the atmospheric issues (e.g., need for adaptation to climate change).

E. Promoting sustainable land-use management and development:

Activities should be directed at:

1. Soil management to reduce contribution of agriculture and forestry to atmospheric problems.

2. Reducing agriculture and forestry contribution to atmospheric pollution including enhanced greenhouse gas emissions.

3. Identifying type and amount of emissions from biomass burning, where emissions from biomass burning are coming from and where they are going.

4. Promoting afforestation, reforestation, and agricultural programmes which recognize their potential for addressing the climate change issue (see IPCC First Assessment Report - Impacts and Response Strategies).

5. Recognizing the need for land-use management and development to consider the potential impacts of climate change (i.e., need for adaptation) including the need for specific actions related to the impact of climate change on agriculture productivity, forestry, drought and desertification, biological diversity, freshwater resources, etc. (see Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, First assessment report - Impacts).

6. The need for action to increase nutritional/food security in light of the impacts (positive and negative) of climate change and transboundary air pollution on agricultural productivity.

F. Promoting increased awareness and improving the knowledge-base:

Paragraph 36: delete all that follows after the phrase "... human activities".

1. Education and awareness:

(a) Education and awareness activities currently listed under the proposed programme areas of the atmospheric component of Agenda 21 should be brought under this programme area presenting an integrated approach to education and awareness (this would include information dissemination programmes regarding relevant technologies).

(b) Education and awareness activities should: inform stakeholders of the issues, the potential impacts, and response options and the consequence of their implementation.

(c) Need for increased awareness of the impacts of reduced atmospheric quality and global climate change on social (including human health) and economic welfare (e.g., nutritional/food security, land-use potential, natural resource industries such as fisheries and forestry, etc.).

(d) Improving the communication of the results of research and development programmes examining the linkages between the atmospheric issues through directed international, regional and national education and information exchange programmes.

2. Information:

(a) Need for establishment, enhancement, and maintenance of multiple-use national, regional and global (systematic) observing and associated assessment capabilities that can assess the state of the atmosphere/climate, its variations and trends as well as the responses of ecological and human systems (includes coincident data and information on associated physical, social and economic parameters).

(b) Need for the means of exchanging information on the science and research and development related to the atmospheric issues and potential solutions.

3. Reducing the uncertainties:

(a) Need for strengthening cooperation on international and regional research and development programmes directed at reducing the uncertainties associated with the atmospheric issues and the regional and national environmental, social (including human health), and economic consequences of these issues. This would include the need to promote research into:

(1) The linkages among the atmospheric issues (transboundary air pollution, ozone depletion and climate change);

(2) The role of aquatic (especially oceans), forested, wetlands, and arctic ecosystems in the climate system and the impacts of atmospheric issues thereon;

(3) The impacts of the atmospheric issues on human social (including human health) and economic welfare.

(b) Increase efforts at the international, regional and national levels directed at understanding the broader issues of climate, climate variability and climate change arising from causes other than enhanced atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, as well as their impacts on natural and human systems.

(c) Need to promote interdisciplinary research into the impacts of the atmospheric issues on other environmental and development issues involving physical, biological and social researchers along with those from the atmospheric sciences.

III. SUBMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS

10. There are no detailed comments other than those already made in the European Community's intervention(s) (e.g. concerning use of the word "could" rather than "should"). General: the matter of how reference will be made to EC/intergovernmental organization remains to be clarified. References to this must then be made in a consistent manner.

IV. SUBMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA

A. Protection of the atmosphere:

(i) The introduction of this document must mention the fact that the industrialized countries and the major consumers of fossil energy bear a greater share of responsibility for damage to the atmosphere. This is something which cannot be overemphasized.

(ii) The components of Agenda 21 relating to environmental protection are relevant.

The programme area involving the promotion of large-scale reforestation as a means of increasing the CO_2 absorptive capacity of the Earth/atmosphere interface must be retained. This Agenda 21 component needs to be thoroughly developed.

(iii) A new programme area should be added involving the development of atmospheric monitoring systems appropriate to the follow-up and continuous monitoring of air quality and the establishment of an early warning mechanism for hazardous transboundary air pollution.